

# Navigating the Urban IRWM Roadways: Taking it to the Streets in Orange County



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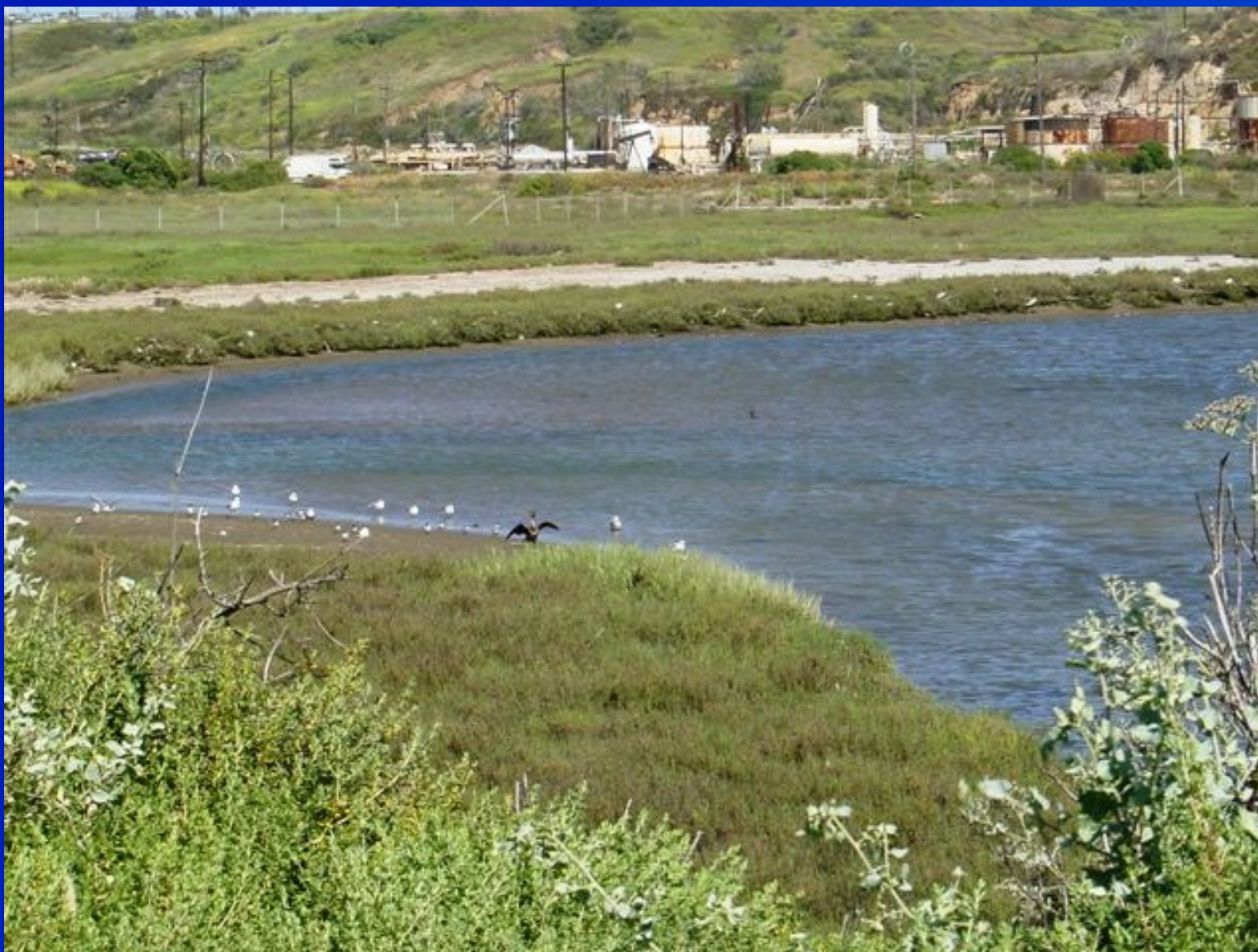


WATERSHED & COASTAL  
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# Water Quality Strategic Plan

## ❖ Countywide

- ◆ Objective: establish a regional water quality improvement program
- ◆ Taking partnership to new level
- ◆ Developed during 2004 and 2005



# Watershed Management Areas

- ❖ Various scales for watershed management
  - ◆ Countywide scale for NPDES program
  - ◆ Watershed scale for TMDLs and watershed action plans
  - ◆ In-between scale for most planning and cooperative activities = WMA



# Watershed Management Areas





# Structure

- ❖ Three Watershed Management Areas
  - ◆ Continues the watershed approach at a manageable scale
  - ◆ Allows for:
    - ◆ sub-regional priorities,
    - ◆ meaningful public and private stakeholder involvement
  - ◆ Municipalities with special districts
- ❖ To be formed by cooperative agreement among cities, special districts, County in each WMA



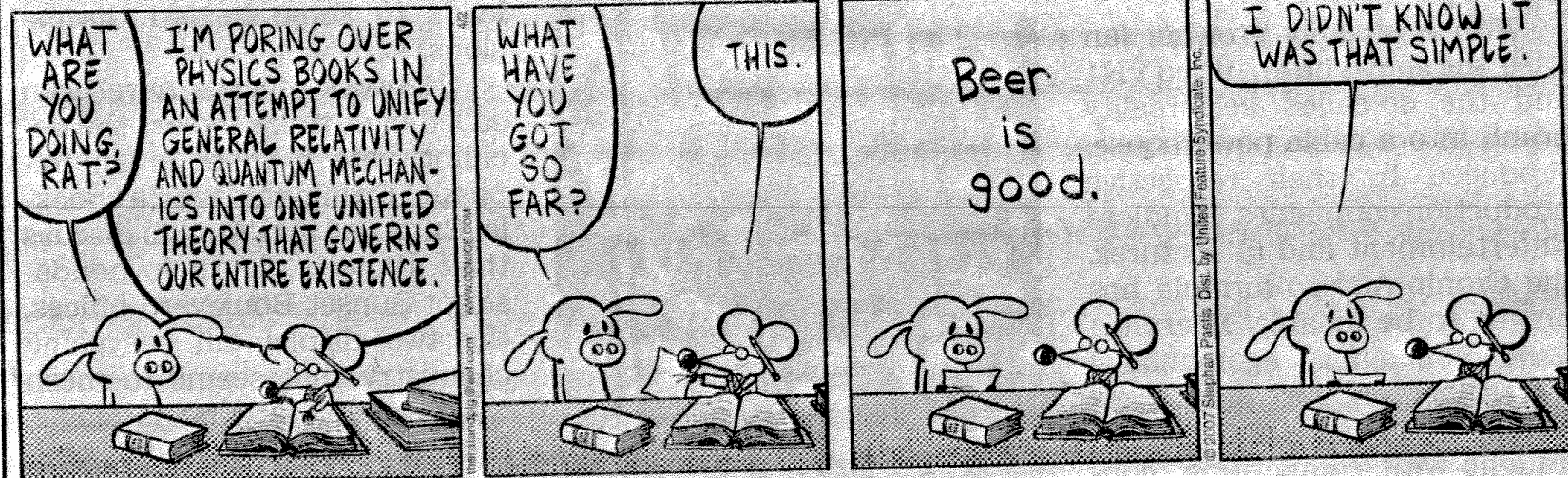
# Governance

- ❖ Based on Newport Bay Executive Committee
  - ◆ Executive Committee: elected & executive officials
  - ◆ Management Committee: agency staff
  - ◆ Stakeholder Committee: all interested parties
- ❖ County serves as program administrator
  - ◆ Annual work plan
  - ◆ Annual budget for shared cost expenditures
  - ◆ Each agency retains budgetary authority



# Integration

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis





# Challenges

- ❖ The urban nature of Orange County creates a unique set of challenges:
  - ◆ A large populous living in heavily developed watersheds
  - ◆ Waterways that must meet multiple demands
  - ◆ Multi-stakeholder process
  - ◆ Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
  - ◆ County under jurisdiction of two Regional Water Boards





# Urbanization

- ❖ Competing demands for resources,
- ❖ Floodplains restricted by development,
- ❖ Infrastructure that hinders natural stream meanders

# Multi-stakeholder Process

- ❖ How to convince stakeholders that the effort is important
- ❖ How to get everyone to the table
- ❖ How to ensure that all voices are heard



# Disadvantaged Communities

- ❖ Water supply in the County is the same for all
- ❖ Involving DACs in stakeholder process when other competing issues
- ❖ Popular perception that all of the county is wealthy
- ❖ Designing projects that benefit DACs along with general population



# IRWM Planning: Bringing People Together

## ❖ Efforts in all three WMAs:

- ◆ South
- ◆ Central
- ◆ North



# South Orange County WMA

## ❖ "Total Watershed Efficiency"

- ◆ 7 watersheds
- ◆ 12 cities
- ◆ 7 special districts
- ◆ 500,000 population
- ◆ 2,500,000 visitors/year
- ◆ 94% imported water



# South Orange County IRWMP

## ❖ Objectives

- ◆ Water supply
- ◆ Groundwater management
- ◆ Aquatic ecosystems & watershed management
- ◆ Water quality, pollution reduction
- ◆ Sewage & flood management
- ◆ Information management

## ❖ 150 ranked projects



# Central Orange County WMA

- ❖ Coastal Plan, emphasis on ASBS
  - ◆ Newport Bay watershed + 4 small coastal streams
  - ◆ 9 cities
  - ◆ 7 special districts
  - ◆ 685,000 population
  - ◆ 160 square miles



# Central Orange County IRWMP

## ❖ Objectives

- ◆ Water quality: especially impaired water bodies, marine refuges & critical coastal area
- ◆ Restoration & BMPs: beneficial uses
- ◆ Runoff & related impacts from land use
- ◆ Balance habitat with flood control
- ◆ Quantity & quality of water supply
- ◆ Drinking water & recreation for DACs
- ◆ Framework for cooperation, planning, integration



# North Orange County WMA

- ❖ 3 watersheds, two extend upstream beyond OC boundaries
- ❖ 20 cities
- ❖ 8 special districts
- ❖ 1,815,000 population
- ❖ 75% local water supply
- ❖ Park & open space deficiencies



# North Orange County IRWMP

## ❖ Objectives

- ◆ Protect & enhance water quality
- ◆ Enhance local water supplies
- ◆ Promote floodplain management
- ◆ Enhance wetlands & wetland functions
- ◆ Address runoff & impacts from land uses
- ◆ Leverage federal, state & local funding
- ◆ Increase groundwater recharge
- ◆ Enhance public education & information
- ◆ Reduce invasive species & improve habitat



# Lessons Learned

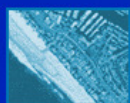
- ❖ Consensus works — don't let the perfect get in the way of the good!
- ❖ Early stakeholder involvement is key
- ❖ Despite differences, several common interests exist
- ❖ As the IRWMPs are worked out, project synergies can be identified
- ❖ Motivation will help you accomplish your goals
- ❖ The benefits of relationship building will extend beyond the IRWMP effort

# Future of OC IRWMPs

- ❖ Continue to finalize and implement the IRWMPs in the three WMAs
- ❖ Look to Prop 84 and other future funding sources and prioritize projects as necessary



# [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com)



Pollution Hotline



Stormwater Program



Watersheds



Public Education



Rainfall & Weather



Who We Are